

Children and Families First Commission
of
Santa Clara County

Minutes

March 13, 2002

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Children and Families First Commission (CFFC) is called to order by Vice Chairperson Tomalinas at 6:35 p.m. in the Higuera Adobe Building, Jose Higuera Adobe Park, Park Victoria and Wessex Place in Milpitas, California. A quorum is present.

Members Present

Robert Sillen
Fred Ferrer
Caroline PUNCHES
Cora Tomalinas
Cynthia Wheeler Ruby
Will Lightbourne

Members Absent

Blanca Alvarado
Sarah Akemi Flynn

One Vacancy

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There are no public comments.

Vice Chairperson Tomalinas provides opening comments and welcomes community members, Commissioners, and staff.

3. APPROVE MINUTES - February 13 2002

On motion of Commissioner Ferrer, seconded by Commissioner Sillen, it is unanimously ordered that the minutes of February 13, 2002 be approved, as submitted.

4. ACCEPT UPDATE ON THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Jolene Smith, Deputy Director of Programs, CFFC, provides introductory comments and states that the role of the partnership is to examine the current systems of early learning and child/family support and, subsequently plan, develop, and implement a comprehensive plan that will create systemic change to ensure the well-being of children and families. She notes that the Northeast Regional Partnership includes the Milpitas,

Berryessa, Orchard, and Alviso areas. In addition, she recognizes members of the partnership who are present, and at her request they introduce themselves and identify their affiliation to the Northeast Regional Partnership.

Elizabeth deGuzman, Northeast Regional Coordinator, CFFC, narrates an overhead presentation and provides an update regarding the coordinating activities for the Northeast Regional Partnership including achieving representation with family support, neighborhoods, health, and early care and education communities; establishing a community driven governance structure; and selecting the region-wide approach. Ms. Smith provides clarification relative to the region-wide approach by stating that the Regional Partnership Initiative allows two approaches of either establishing partnerships through a neighborhood approach or a region-wide approach.

Ms. deGuzman continues her presentation of highlighting coordinating activities including establishing relationships with key elected officials and City Council Members from San Jose and Milpitas; meeting with Milpitas Mayor Henry Manayan; establishing an agreement with the Milpitas Public Information Officer to access the public broadcasting channel for exposure purposes; building partnerships with Milpitas, Berryessa, and Alviso community centers; and, selecting Harrigan and Brient Associates, Inc., as the "fiscal pass through" agency. Ms. deGuzman indicates that 59 percent of the identified partners represent the community.

In addition, Ms. deGuzman provides an overview of future activities to conduct asset mapping for the region, conduct follow-up focus groups, prepare for the Visioning Retreat to be scheduled in April 2002, continue developing a partnership reflective of the region, and continue intensive outreach efforts to ensure that all voices are heard.

Ms. Smith notes that the purpose of the Visioning Retreat is to formulate specific strategies for the region by analyzing data compiled from a survey and provide the partners the opportunity to envision the outcomes from the identified strategies. Ms. deGuzman expresses appreciation to the Commission, CFFC staff, and to the community members and partners for their contributing efforts.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Panches relating to benefits and/or challenges experienced when developing the partnership, Debra Romero, Outreach Specialist, CFFC, comments on the positive results by various partners working together for a common goal.

Vice Chairperson Tomalinas recognizes Milpitas Councilman Jose Esteves and expresses appreciation to the members of the Northeast Regional Partnership for their participation; Commissioners concur.

5. ACCEPT PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Punches reports that the Program Development and Communications Committee met on February 21, 2002, and discussed various issues including several referrals from the February 6, 2002 regular meeting of the Commission. She states that the Committee will have recommendations for Commission consideration at the April 10, 2002 regular meeting including the Unsolicited Request and Sponsorship Policies.

6. ACCEPT EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

There is no report.

7. ACCEPT PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ferrer reports on the Personnel and Finance Committee recent activities including outlining CFFC infrastructure and long-term Commission structure plans; developing a long term financial and sustainability plan; negotiating a lease agreement for additional office space at 1150 South Bascom Avenue in San Jose; meeting with a consultant to negotiate the procurement of furnishing the leased space; and, reviewing referrals from the Program Development and Communications Committee.

8. DISCUSS STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE FORMATION OF THE CFFC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Paula Lacey, Special Projects, CFFC, references a memorandum dated March 5, 2002, from the Steering Committee and provides a brief overview of the Steering Committee recommendations regarding the CFFC Advisory Committee Guidelines relative to the composition and selection of members. She notes that the specific number of members has not been specified and that Commissioners will be asked to recruit and/or nominate members to the Advisory Committee. Karen Blinstrub, Executive Director, CFFC, requests that any member recommendations be forwarded to Ms. Lacey.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Punches, Ms. Blinstrub indicates that an application form and a dissemination plan will be developed by the Program Development and Communications Committee prior to Commission consideration.

Commissioner Sillen suggests reducing the recommended four-year term to a two-year term, and Commissioners concur.

Commissioner Ferrer comments on the capacity of the Advisory Committee relative to subdividing into specific areas of expertise.

Commissioner Punches suggests that the Steering Committee consider re-naming the Advisory Committee to the Board of Advisory, and Commissioners concur. Further, she suggests that the members be non-voting members on the CFFC Committees.

Vice Chairperson Tomalinas indicates that the Steering Committee will consider the Commissioner suggestions this evening at the next Steering Committee meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Lightbourne, seconded by Commissioner Punches, it is unanimously ordered that the Advisory Committee Guidelines be approved as recommended by the Steering Committee.

Further, that the Steering Committee consider two-year terms and re-naming the Advisory Committee to the Board of Advisory be approved.

9. ACCEPT ORAL REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY 27, 2002 CFFC PREVIEW EVENT

Barbara Bernard, Technical Assistant Manager, CFFC, expresses appreciation to Commissioners who attended the February 27, 2002 CFFC Preview Event and provides an overview of the event including the attendance, noting that participation included elected officials; the keynote speaker, the panel presentation, and the comments received relating to the kiosk. Further, she provides an overview of challenges faced in translating written material, flyers provided by CFFC grantees, as well as the media exposure by various media outlets including KCBS, KLIV, KBAY, and the Gilroy Dispatch. Ms. Bernard advises that an article will be featured in the Mercury News on March 16, 2002.

In addition, she expresses appreciation and acknowledges CFFC staff for their support in preparing for the event and to Metier Incorporated for creating the kiosk.

Vice Chairperson Tomalinas and Commissioners provide positive comments relating to the event and express appreciation to Ms. Bernard and staff for the successful event.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Blinstrub provides an update on recent activities including receiving matching funds for the Franklin-McKinley School Readiness Initiative. She advises that the California Children and Families Commission selected the Franklin-McKinley proposal and one other proposal as an example to assist County Commissions to prepare School Readiness Initiative proposals.

In addition, Ms. Blinstrub provides an update on the Childcare Work Group that was convened relative to the Governor's proposed changes to the subsidized childcare system and references a memorandum from the Work Group to Rita Saenz, Director, California Department of Social Services, relating to the local impacts to the Santa Clara County Subsidized Childcare System as well as preliminary recommendations to the Governor's proposed changes. Ms. Blinstrub further reports on significant impacts to the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program by the Governor's proposed budget and urges community involvement by contacting Legislators.

11. COMMISSIONER REFERRALS

There are no Commissioner referrals.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Blinstrub comments on the six-month anniversary date of the September 11, 2002 terrorist attacks, and at her request there is a moment of silence in memory of the New York City and Washington D.C. victims.

Vice Chairperson Tomalinas announces the public hearing on scheduled on April 10, 2002, relating to the California Children and Families Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000/2001.

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13. ADJOURN

On motion of Commissioner Sillen, seconded by Commissioner Lightbourne, it is unanimously ordered that the meeting be adjourned at 7:14 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, 70 West Hedding Street in San Jose, California.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Trozzolillo
Deputy Clerk of the Board